

TELEGRAM

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File

FROM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

GDS
PEPR, OAS, PINT, SHUM, AR
Aide Predicts IAHR Decision Near and Relates
Vaky Visit to Political Opening in Cabinet

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

BUENOS AIRES 7988

AMB
DCM
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RF
CHRON

REF: BUENOS AIRES 7971

SUMMARY. Despite the objections of the Foreign Ministry, the GOA reportedly will notify the OAS shortly of its acceptance of a visit to Argentina by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC). According to the same source, a well-placed Presidential aide, the GOA will also ratify Tlatelolco. The aide also reports that plans are afoot to produce a general change in the Cabinet "within three weeks" which, if successful, will constitute a significant step towards greater political interaction and democratic restoration. Much hard work will be required to bring off the Cabinet change as planned. If the plan is successful, the GOA would wish to have a visit by Assistant Secretary Vaky shortly after the Cabinet change.

END SUMMARY.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

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Date Declassify on Reason

DRAFTED BY:

POL: AGFrcema gcr

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1. An authoritative Casa Rosada source has confirmed to Emboff that last Friday's CLARIN article (interpreting the alleged "suspension" of Assistant Secretary Vaky's proposed visit to Argentina as a tactic intended to pressure the GOA into accepting a visit by the IAHC) was inspired by the Foreign Ministry with ulterior motives in mind. Our source views Foreign Minister Montes and Deputy Allara's ploy with CLARIN as a reaction to President Videla's decision to move ahead with the IAHC visit to Argentina. Last Thursday Videla handed Montes, for his comment, a draft reply to the IAHC which was prepared in the Casa Rosada. Captain Allara objected to the draft, asserting that the scope of action agreed upon by Videla for the OAS Commission was much too liberal and should be tightened. The Foreign Ministry then followed by giving CLARIN its interpretation of Vaky's motives.

2. Notwithstanding the Foreign Minister's objections to Videla's draft note, the Presidential aide expressed his assurance that the GOA would transmit a workable reply to the IAHC "probably" this week. To reassure Emboff as to the final outcome and perhaps partly as an explanation of the Foreign Minister's behavior, the aide emphasized that Montes was on his way out of the Cabinet.

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GOA's

3. The aide ~~reaffirmed~~ the ~~XXXX~~ intention to ratify the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

4. The Presidential office source noted that the desired retirements and changes in Army command positions had not been resolved yet, but he did not link this problem to the IAHRC question.

5. He stated that there would be a general Cabinet crisis in about three weeks. He estimated that a little under 50% of the next Cabinet would be civilian. Under consideration is a proposal that the civilian members of the next Cabinet be representative political leaders of stature. Their appointment would signal the beginning of President Videla's planned "political opening." It would be an uphill struggle to get ^{the Cabinet reshuffle} ~~this proposal~~ approved. By statute, Videla did not require the prior consent of the Junta, but he would consult the Junta nevertheless before naming the new Cabinet. One positive factor which the aide noted was that since Admiral Massera's departure, Videla had found it easier to deal with the Junta.

6. The aide expressed the hope that Assistant Secretary Vaky would visit Argentina in November--soon after the Cabinet change. The democratic ramifications of the Cabinet change would make it easier for Vaky to visit at that time, he suggested. (We ~~xxx~~ also read him as meaning that the visit could be played as US endorsement)

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of Videla's efforts to work toward democratic restoration.) However, if the Cabinet change did not come off as planned, the aide thought that the timing of a Vaky visit would have to be reconsidered. All This presupposes IAHRC visit will have been announced.

7. The aide also opined that the Beagle Channel talks with Chile were going more smoothly than the recent local press play would suggest. He poohpoohed the latest resurgence of war jitters, adding that the government had ordered the press last Thursday to cease printing stories about Argentine troop movements and exercises (septel). Relations with Brazil were also on the mend, he observed.

8. COMMENT: We note that the latest edition of SOMOS magazine attributes the alleged Vaky "pressure tactic" to Department sources in Washington. We do not rule out the possibility that Montes and Allara's comments to CLARIN may have been partly fired by reports originating in Washington, but we have no independent evidence of any such Washington-based speculation.

9. Observing that the Ex-Im Bank "rectification" Vaky and the Vaky visit were agreed upon during the Mondale-Videla meeting in Rome, CLARIN noted October 8 that "it wouldn't be strange" if the GOA reciprocated "shortly" with decisions regarding the IAHRC visit and the ratification of Tlatelolco.

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10. Last weekend's press also contained hints that Videla is planning Cabinet changes for the second half of October which will mark a significant new phase in the national reorganization process. END COMMENT.

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